

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL CEBU

TO AMEMBASSY MANILA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJ: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO CEBU

1. IN PREVIOUSLY UNANNOUNCED VISIT, PRESIDENT MARCOS, MRS. MARCOS, AND NUMBER OF INVITEES FROM LAST WEEK'S HEART CENTER INAUGURATION CEREMONIES ARRIVED IN CEBU MID-MORNING, FEBRUARY 18, FIRST TIME PRESIDENT HAD VISITED THIS CITY SOME YEARS.

2. ANNOUNCED PURPOSE WAS TO ADDRESS CEBU RALLY (ESSENTIALLY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS) ON QUESTIONS CONCERNING REFERENDUM. SECONDARY PURPOSE, APPARENTLY, WAS IN RECOGNITION SILVER JUBILEE AS ARCHBISHOP OF CEBU, OF JULIO CARDINAL ROSALES.

3. CONSULATE'S SENIOR LOCAL EMPLOYEE WHO ATTENDED RALLY REPORTED THAT CITY HALL, BARANGAY AND ALU UNITS ALSO WERE PRESENT, AS WAS SECRETARY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT RONO AND GOVERNORS AND CITY MAYORS FROM VISAYAS AREAS.

4. PRESIDENT IN HIS SPEECH EXHORTED YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN FORTHCOMING REFERENDUM, POINTING OUT THAT HE WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALLOWING 15-18 YEAR OLDS PRIVILEGE TO VOTE. PRESIDENT STATED THAT OUT OF SOME 40 MILLION FILIPINOS, 22 MILLION ARE REGISTERED VOTERS AND MOST OF THEM ARE UNDER 25.

5. PRESIDENT OUTLINED REFERENDUM QUESTIONS AS APPLYING TO THIS
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AREA AND ASKED FOR SHOW OF HANDS. RECEIVED RESOUNDING 'YES'

FROM AUDIENCE ON QUESTIONING GROUP OF SOME FIVE THOUSAND
WHETHER THEY WERE: (1) SATISFIED WITH MARTIAL LAW AND (2)
WISHED TO SEE IT CONTINUED.

6. ON QUESTION INVOLVING ELECTION VS. APPOINTMENT OF
MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS, PRESIDENT RECEIVED MIXED RESPONSE AND
ASKED FOR RECONSIDERATION, POINTING OUT THAT IF PEOPLE OPTED
FOR APPOINTMENT HE WOULD NOT APPOINT 'STRANGERS' TO
MUNICIPALITIES BUT WOULD AUTHORIZE PERFORMANCE AUDIT
TEAMS TO TAKE STRICT LOOK AT PERFORMANCE OF CITY OFFICIALS.

7. PRESIDENT ALSO ALLUDED TO MINDANAO SITUATION STATING THAT
DIFFICULTIES BEING ENCOUNTERED THERE CONSTITUTED ONE VERY
GOOD REASON FOR CONTINUATION OF MARTIAL LAW. HE REJECTED
ANY IDEA OF SECESSION FOR MUSLIM AREAS IN SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES.

8. JUST INFORMED THAT PRESIDENTIAL PARTY ATTENDED LUNCH IN HONOR
OF CARDINAL ROSALES AND DEPARTED EARLY AFTERNOON FOR TACLOBAN.
SULLIVAN

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